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BORMAN EXPRESSWAY (I-80/94) RECONSTRUCTION TO ENTER NEW PHASE WEDNESDAY

Eastbound Grant Street ramps to open two weeks ahead of schedule

LAKE COUNTY – Thanks to hard work and cooperative weather, the next phase of the Borman Expressway (I-80/94) reconstruction is scheduled to begin Wednesday, June 22, 2005, weather permitting, when construction crews will begin shifting traffic from the existing westbound lanes to new pavement in the eastbound lanes, and open entrance and exit ramps to eastbound Grant Street.

On Wednesday, June 29, 2005, weather permitting, crews will close westbound entrance and exit ramps at Broadway. Drivers wishing to travel westbound on the Borman Expressway from Broadway should travel north to 15th Avenue, west to Grant, and south to the Borman.

Westbound entrance and exit ramps at Burr will also close for two weeks beginning Wednesday, July 6, 2005. Motorists should follow the posted detour.

During this phase of construction, crews will remove the old westbound pavement, install new, longer ramps and add a collector-distributor lane so motorists can enter and exit the interstate without impeding traffic.

This is the third season of a multi-year, \$300 million project to rebuild the 13-mile expressway from the Indiana-Illinois state line to just east of the I-65 interchange. This year's work focuses on the segment of the Borman between Cline Avenue and Broadway (State Road 53) in Gary. Carrying 160,000 vehicles per day, the Borman Expressway (I-80/94) in northwest Indiana is one of the state's busiest highways.

Lane Restrictions & Ramp Closures

Every day, from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., three lanes will be open in each direction to minimize delays. During the overnight hours, various lane restrictions will be necessary during the course of the project.

Construction Updates

Visit the Borman Expressway Web site at www.borman.in.gov for daily updates. Motorists can register for free e-mail messages sent directly to their mailbox with updates about upcoming lane restrictions and ramp closures. The site also features live traffic cameras, downloadable maps and other helpful travel resources.

Drivers also can dial 877-HWY-WORK (877-499-9675) for daily construction updates. These messages will provide motorists with the latest ramp closures, detour routes and overnight lane restrictions.

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The Finished Product

This is the first time the Borman Expressway has been fully reconstructed in its 50-year history. Originally designed for 60,000 vehicles per day, the highway currently handles more than 160,000 cars and trucks. Semi-trucks account for more than 40 percent of the traffic on this major east-west interstate, which connects Chicagoland with the east and west coasts. When completed in 2009, the new roadway will handle the projected traffic volumes for the next 20 years.

The new Borman Expressway will feature:

- **Four lanes in each direction:** The westbound fourth lane will be opened in conjunction with the completion of the Illinois Kingery Expressway in 2006. The fourth eastbound lane will be opened by late spring 2006.
- **New collector-distributor lanes:** Throughout the Burr, Grant and Broadway interchanges to allow vehicles to enter and exit without impeding traffic in the main travel lanes.
- **New interchange ramps:** The entrance and exit ramps at Burr, Grant and Broadway will be rebuilt to maximize traffic flow.
- **New sound barrier walls:** To mitigate noise for neighborhoods near the expressway.
- **New lighting systems:** For increased safety and visibility.
- **New drainage facilities:** To reduce and eliminate water ponding on the highway.

Additional Background

In 2004, the western half of the project, between Cline and Calumet avenues, was totally rebuilt. In 2007, work will begin on reconfiguring the interchange at I-65. That project is expected to take three years to complete.

The Borman Expressway project is being done in conjunction with the Kingery Expressway and Illinois Tollway reconstruction in Illinois. For more information about those projects, go to www.kingeryexpressway.com.